

MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 11, 1872.

THE BALLOT-BOX POLL-TAX PRO-
PERTY QUALIFICATION.

The ballot-box, in other days, was regarded as the bulwark of our republican institutions. But it is fast becoming the focus of the most malignant passions of the people is defeated. From one end of the Union to the other, the voice of the most startling revelations as to the corruptions in elections. The election in Arkansas was a mockery. Fraud and corruption, at the ballot-box in Louisiana was open, brazen and unblushing. The elections in Pennsylvania have been characterized as stupendous frauds and governed by the most shameless villainy. Governor Walker, in his recent message to the legislature of Virginia, says:

"The shameful pollution of the ballot which has recently been witnessed in some of our sister States forces upon us the grave consideration whether the very foundations of our social and civil order are not being sapped by corruption, and whether the ballot, instead of being the palladium of our liberties, is not becoming the instrument of their destruction. Certainly every guard and protection should be maintained to preserve and maintain the purity of elections and the free, untrammelled expression of popular sentiment. A possession of popular sentiment of two dollars upon every citizen of the Commonwealth, to be devoted exclusively to the support and maintenance of our common schools, and prohibiting any one from voting until he exhibits a proper certificate of the payment of this tax, would not only very materially lessen the burden of taxation upon property, but would also throw an additional safeguard around the ballot-box."

Something must be done to stay the tide of corruption, or elections will become a farce. A law must be passed which will confound the political scoundrel who stuffs the ballot-box, or carry the elections by fraud. There is no punishment so severe for the knaves who corrupt the ballot-box, the engine by which freedom should make known their will. Indeed, the law which, with that corruption that imperils the very existence of free institutions, and these usurpations and abuses of power that tend to make elections a portion of the Union the very mockery.

Where corruption has been charged. It is asserted on the one side that thousands and tens of thousands were defrauded of the right to register and vote. On the other comes the charge that thousands of men were counted that voted. Judges of elections are charged with giving certificates to defeated candidates, and deliberately withholding them from men elected by the popular principle which underlies our form of government. But now, that this resort of free men has become corrupted, the patriot looks with gloomy forebodings as to the means by which our republican institutions are to be perpetuated. It will be seen from the above extract that Governor Walker proposes to purify the ballot-box to some extent, by making the payment of a poll-tax the prerequisite for exercising the prerogative of a freeman. This legislation will breed strife, without correcting the evil, free candidates and political rings will combine and pay the poll-tax of the vagabonds in order to secure their votes. It is generally that class who pay no taxes that do the hard fighting, and they should have a voice in electing those who make and administer the laws. To impose an annual tax of two dollars upon every citizen and the payment of it, is a qualification for voting will not correct the "shameful pollution of the ballot-box"—about which Governor Walker mourns. The imposition of such a tax is a recognition of the principle of property qualification, which should ever be held as repugnant to a republican government. The acquisition of property is no evidence of industry, energy, capacity, honesty and intelligence, for it is often inherited and there are thousands of men of accumulated property without industry, energy, capacity, honesty or intelligence. Nor is it a possession of property evidence of so great an interest in the welfare of the country that on that score it qualifies and entitles a man to vote. It is true, property is conservative. It is sensitive. It dreads revolutions, mobs, disturbances, instability in measures, rashness in legislation, blunders and errors in administration. It is therefore always on the side of the established condition of things. It supports the English Constitution, and the French Republic. It is afraid that the people will take for their text the action of four hundred men to submit to power, and exchange their liberties for security. It is often inclined to be a slave to complacency, makes them think it rash and unwise in men of boldness and honesty to write and publish the truth. To-day it dreads confusion and persuades its owners to assist in the miserable work of despotism. The property-holder of the city, to save his estate, becomes the ally of Radicalism, abhors the cause of the country, becomes the Jews who betray constitutional liberty, divests himself of his rights, and sits down naked, in the hope that by a tame submission he may avert the threatened storm, or survive its peltings without losing what is dearer to him than honor—his property. The proprietorship of property is not inconsistent with an utter want of patriotism, an intense selfishness, a miserable indifference to the honor of the country. Wealth is often the evidence of thrift, economy, energy, perseverance, judgment and honesty, and often of unconscientious plundering, the plundering of others, the betrayal of one's country, lucky or rascally speculations, or mere good fortune; but it does not prove its owner patriotic, or even true, in most cases, to make him so. It is no evidence, one way or the other, of respect or absence of an unselfish devotion to the interests of the country. We have all seen, during the late war, both the rich and the poor severely tried, as in a furnace heated seven-fold; we have seen such enormous fortunes made without the smell of fire on their garments, and we have seen others miserably failed to set the part of men. Neither the state or interest of men in the welfare, the property, the liberty and the honor of a country to be measured by their wealth or estates, any more than it is in proportion to their size or capacity to eat and drink. The poor man often has a larger stake in the blessings which both he and the rich have. The young man just entering upon the journey and engaging in the battle of life, with prospects of accumulating wealth, or winning honor, or fortune, or securing to himself and the woman of his choice a comfortable home, by the labor of his hands, has as great and as profound an interest in everything that concerns the State and nation as Astor or Stewart. There is no ground, therefore, on which the right to vote can be denied to the honest, upright, reputable, intelligent, independent poor man, of whatever profession, occupation, or trade. For he not only has as great an interest as the rich in the administration of pub-

lic affairs, but he is as patriotic, and can exercise the franchise as wisely and as judiciously for the State. The right suffrage, therefore, cannot be either wisely or justly narrowed by a poll-tax or property qualification, applying to all classes alike. If this is done for the purpose of excluding the poor, or of practically excluding the masses of the people, it is a means of withholding the privilege from those worthless and unproductive classes that infest the cities, of men who are utterly unfit to vote, at the same time it excludes an immense number, as we have shown, of those to whom it is unjust to deny the right. Sometimes, too, if not too often, the laboring classes, though owning no property, do indeed need the ballot as a means of effecting a great part of the population from the rapacity and oppression of the capitalist, and his inclination to enrich himself by those devices of legislation which rob the poor and impose burdens on the country. Such is the case where immense manufacturing employ vast numbers of operatives; where a few own the soil and the mass of the population are only tenants; and where, as in our country, the people are plundered and oppressed by inequitable tariffs, laid to subvert private and sectional interests. Entertaining these views, we cannot indorse the remedy proposed by Gov. Walker, nor can we favor a similar proposition, if made by the Legislature of Tennessee. A poll-tax would drive many ignorant vagabonds from the polls, who vote like so many automatons for pay. But the evils will more than counterbalance the good.

For the next six or twelve months, a daily newspaper, issued from Memphis, the center of a great telegraph and railway system, will be indispensable to the people of this and the adjacent States. The new Tennessee Legislature elect will meet the first Monday in January, 1873. The proceedings of that body will, no doubt, be of the most interesting of any preceding General Assembly for years. The financial, educational, immigration, taxation, internal improvement, and other problems will, no doubt, come before it for solution, and all will be interested more or less in the discussions. Even the government of this city and county may be transformed.

The new Congress of the United States will soon be in session, and its proceedings will be looked forward to with no ordinary interest. The President's inaugural message, and the address of the new Congress, will be of great interest, as indicative of the future policy of the administration, as it affects the South, will also be looked forward to with intense interest by people of all shades of political opinion. Such as desire to keep political events at the State and the National capitals—Nashville, Jackson, Little Rock and Washington—will wish to be supplied with the general news of the outside world, should become readers of the Memphis Appeal, which will continue to be, as it has ever been, the representative organ of the white people. We print every morning the full text of the telegraph of the Associated Press of the whole world, full and accurate reports of the home and foreign markets, proceedings of Congress and the Legislature of Tennessee, and the Mississippi, and all the local and foreign news of interest to the public. The Daily is ten dollars a year, or five dollars for six months, by mail. The Weekly, which is a complete compendium of the news of the Day, is two dollars and half per year, or at two dollars for clubs of five or more.

The annihilation of Assessors and Assistant-Assessors of Internal Revenue, as provided for in the bill introduced by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and passed by the House, will please everybody. The reduction of the internal revenue taxes will make this not only possible, but necessary. The revenue collection will be attended to by the collectors and deputy collectors, and it is to be hoped that before long a number of these may be spared to earn their living along with the less fortunate assessors.

GOVERNOR ALCOCK'S vote in Mississippi was 72,000, Grant 70,000, and 150,000 votes are registered. There were of the 83,000 voters who did not appear at the polls, and why were they absent?

THERE are six blacks and twelve whites on the Federal Grand Jury at Oxford, Mississippi. Four of the whites board with a colored man.

POLITICAL.

Governor F. J. Moses, of South Carolina, was inaugurated last week, and made his first address to the Legislature. He promised reforms in the State government, and said that he should be Governor of the State, and not simply of a party.

The Charming claim bids fair to take a prominent place among the topics to be discussed by the politicians at Washington. Charming is said not to be discouraged, notwithstanding his repeated defeats, and it is believed that he has fortified himself with new political influence.

Ames, Beattie & Co., 396 Main street, offer Bargains, Wholesale and Retail, in Furniture, Carpets, Mattresses, Oilcloths, Window Shades, etc.

ROYSTER, TREZEVANT & CO.'S REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE. N. E. COR. MAIN AND JEFFERSON.

BULLETIN FOR THIS DAY

The Most Valuable Business List in Memphis at Chancery Sale.

Tuesday, January 7th, 1873.

NEW YORK PACKING HOUSE.

WE shall, on Monday, December 24th, in connection with our regular MEAT MARKET, Corner of Vance and Hernando Streets, and will be enabled to furnish our customers with the best of the market.

OPPENHEIMER & HOCHSTADTER, 123 and 124 Hernando street, Cor. Vance.

CIGARS AND TOBACCOES FOR MERCHANTS.

ROGAN, SELDEN & CO. WHOLESALE COTTON FACTORS.

AND DEALERS IN Foreign and Domestic Liquors, Tobacco, Cigars, etc.

Improve Your Sight! THE CRESCENT SPECTACLES.

REMOVAL. STRATTON & WELFORD, COTTON FACTORS.

REMOVAL. D. H. TOWNSEND, Cotton Factor.

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANT.

MRS. HAILE'S MEMPHIS FEMALE SEMINARY, 462 SHELBY STREET.

PARISIAN FASHIONS. MISS A. A. WALL, 232 Main Street.

A. VACCARO & CO. Importers and Dealers in WINES, LIQUORS, CIGARS, ETC.

Commission Merchants, No. 334 Front Street, - Memphis.

THE GUIDE is now published QUARTERLY.

DR. R. L. LASKI, PHYSICIAN, SURGEON AND ACCOUCHER.

J. F. DOWDY & CO., COTTON FACTORS.

WEBBER & WILLIAMS, Cotton Factors, COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

GRIDER & DENIE, Manufacturers of the Celebrated ALABAMA LIME.

WEBBER & WILLIAMS, Cotton Factors, COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

ROGAN, SELDEN & CO. WHOLESALE COTTON FACTORS.

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REMOVAL. STRATTON & WELFORD, COTTON FACTORS.

REMOVAL. D. H. TOWNSEND, Cotton Factor.

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANT.

MENKEN BROTHERS. Large Stock of Winter Goods. WILL OFFER ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 24th, A LARGE LINE OF Striped Wool Poplins.

Wool Plaid Dress Goods, Bright Colors, 25c, SINGLE-WIDTH BLACK ALPACA, 20c, Double-Width Black Alpaca, 25c, PURE MOHAIR & SILKEN WARP ALPACA.

Striped Imitation Japanese Silks, 25c, YARD-WIDE, ENGLISH WIDTH, PRINTS.

FURS, FURS, FURS! \$64,260. HUDSON BAY SABLES, MINK, AND OTHER FINE FURS, WARRANTED GENUINE.

Velvet and Cloth Cloaks. BLACK Gros Grain SILKS, \$1 25, \$1 50, \$1 75, Guaranteed all Pure Silk.

BELLON'S Real LYONS SILK. GREAT BARGAINS IN FLANNELS, Good 3-4 White Flannels at 25c per Yard.

MENKEN BROTHERS, 261 and 263 Main Street, Cor. Court.

F. D. BARNUM & CO. WATCHMAKERS, JEWELERS AND SILVERSMITHS, 265 MAIN STREET, CORNER COURT.

CHICKASAW IRON WORKS, RANDLE & HEATH, 98, 100, 102, 104 and 106 Second Street, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

Established 1842. A. J. WHITE & CO., DEALERS IN AND IMPORTERS OF HARDWARE & CUTLERY.

REMOVAL. TAYLOR, RADFORD & CO. Cotton Factors, COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

REMOVAL. D. H. TOWNSEND, Cotton Factor.

REMOVAL. STRATTON & WELFORD, COTTON FACTORS.

REMOVAL. D. H. TOWNSEND, Cotton Factor.

GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANT.

FALL TRADE. ORGILL BROTHERS & CO. WHOLESALE HARDWARE, 310 and 312 FRONT STREET, Memphis.

GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. THE ENTIRE STOCK OF STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS.

B. LOWENSTEIN & BROS. REDUCED! During the present month we will offer our SPLENDID STOCK at a Great Reduction on former prices.

HOLIDAY GIFTS! MAGNIFICENT LINE OF SILKS! Extraordinary Inducements in All Makes and Qualities.

CLOTH SHADES! Twenty-four Inches Wide in Bronze, Plum, Sage Green, Navy Blue, Peacock Green, London Smoke, At \$2 50 per yard, Reduced from \$3 75.

PLUM, NAVY BLUE AND BORDEAUX. Black Gros Grain at \$1 00 per yard, Worth \$1 50. Black Gros Grain at 1 25 per yard, Worth 1 75. Black Gros Grain at 1 50 per yard, Worth 2 00.

Bellons and Bonnet Silks! In all the Fine Grades, at Unprecedentedly Low Prices.

CLOTH SHADES IN TRIMMING VELOURS! All Shades and Tints in Delicate Colors, suitable for Bridal Outfits and Evening Wear.

Velvet Cloaks Reduced, Astrachan Cloaks Reduced, Sealskin Cloaks Reduced, Cloth Cloaks Reduced, Shawls Reduced.

FURS REDUCED! LADIES' SUITS, SUITABLE FOR THE WINTER SEASON, REDUCED.

DRESS GOODS REDUCED! House Furnishing Goods, Hosiery, Gloves, Notions, Laces and Ribbon, all Reduced.

B. Lowenstein & Brothers, 242 and 244 Main Street, Cor. Jefferson.

Mitchell, Hoffman & Co. MANUFACTURERS OF ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE & LOOKING-GLASSES.

CARPETS, OIL-CLOTHS, CURTAIN MATERIALS, SHADES, ETC.

WHEELER, PICKENS & CO.'S, 328 and 330 Main Street, Memphis.

MEMPHIS CITY FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Office, No. 19 MADISON STREET, Memphis, Tenn.